1795

August Term, 1795.

COMMISSION, bearing date the 1st of July, 1795, was read, by which, during the recess of Congress, John Rutledge, Esquire, was appointed Chief Justice, till the end of the next session of the Senate.

The United States v. RICHARD PETERS, District Judge.

THIS was a motion for a Prohibition to the District Court of Pennsylvania, where a Libel had been filed, by James Yard, and process of attachment thereupon issued, against the Cassius, an armed Corvette, belonging to the French Republic, and Samuel Davis, her Commander. The Libel was in these words:

"To the Honorable Richard Peters, Esquire, Judge of the District Court of Pennsylvania. The Libel and Complaint of James Yard, of the State of Pennsylvania, in the United States of America,

"Humbly sheweth, That the said James Yard is the owner of the schooner William Lindsey, and her cargo: That on or about the day of last, the said schooner sailed from the island of St. Thomas, to the city of St. Domingo, in the island of Hispaniola; commanded by a certain Walter Burke, and laden with about one hundred and forty-two barrels of Flour, six puncheons of Rum, and other Merchandize, of the value of two thousand dollars, the said vessel and cargo amounting in all to ten thousand dollars, lawful money of the United States of America, all regularly cleared out, from the said island of St. Thomas, and surnished with all Documents, Vol. III.

usual, necessary, and proper, and being on a voyage to the said port of St. Domingo, on the twentieth day of May, in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and ninety-five, the said schooner William Lindsey, was forcibly, violently, tortiously, and contrary to the laws and usages of nations, attacked and taken, by a certain armed veffel called the Cassius, commanded by a certain Samuel Davis, pretending an authority from the French Republic, but then, and now, a citizen of the United States of America; and being so taken, was, by the said Samuel Davis, forcibly, violently, tortiously, and contrary to the Laws of Nations, carried into Port de Paix, where the faid schooner William Lindsey, with her cargo, tackle, apparel and furniture, flill are, forcibly, tortiously, and illegally, detained: And your libellant does not admit, that the vessel, called the Cassius, was authorized, by the French Republic, to capture vessels belonging to the United States, who were at that time, and still are, at peace with the faid French Republic: That the vessel called the Cassius, was originally equipped and fitted for war in the port of Philadelphia, in Pennsylvania, one of the United States of America, contrary to the laws of the faid United States, and the laws and usages of nations: That your libellant has never received compensation for the damages he has suffered, and has not been able to retrieve the faid veffel, with her tackle, apparel, and furniture: That the faid vessel, called the Cassius, and the faid Samnel Davis, are now in the port of Philadelphia, and within the jurisdiction of this Court: In order, therefore, that your libellant may be compensated for the damages he has incurred, by the aforefaid illegal and tortious taking, and detention, of the faid schooner William Lindsey, with her cargo, tackle, apparel, and furniture; and that all may be done touching the premises, which to your Honor may seem just and right: May it please your Honor to cause to be issued, Process for feizing the faid veffel, called the Caffius, with her tackle, pparel, and furniture; and for arrefting the body of the faid Samuel Davis, so that he be, and appear, &c."

The fuggestion, on which the motion for a prohibition was

founded, fet forth,

"That on the 21st day of August, in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and ninety-five, Before the honorable John Rutledge, Esquire, Chief Justice, and his associate Justices of the Supreme Court of the United States, at Philadelphia, comes Samuel B. Davis, by Benjamin R. Morgan, his attorney, and gives this honorable court, now here. to understand, and be informed, That whereas, by the laws of nations, and the treaties subsisting between the United States, and the Republic of France, the trial of prizes taken.

on the high feas, without the territorial limits and jurifdictionof the United States, and brought within the dominions and jurisdiction of the said Republic; for legal adjudication, by wesfels of war belonging to the sovereignty of the said Republic, acting under the authority of the same, and of all questions incidental thereto, does of right, and exclusively belong to the tribunals and judiciary establishments of the said Republic. and to no other tribunal or tribunals, court or courts whatfor ever: -And whereas, by the faid laws of nations and treaties aforefaid, the veffels of war belonging to the faid French Republic, and the officers commanding the fame, cannot, and ought not to be arrested, seized, attached, or detained, in the ports of the United States, by process of law, at the fuit orl instance of individuals, to answer for any capture or captures, feizure or feizures, made on the high feas, and brought for legal adjudication into the parts of the Erench Republic, by the. faid veffels of war, while belonging to, and acting under the authority, and in the immediate service of the said Republic, ----And whereas, by the laws and treaties aforefaid, the District: Courts of the United States, have not and ought not to entertain jurisdiction, or hold plea of such captures, made as afore-i faid, under the above circumstances. And whereas, by ther laws of nations, the veffels of war of Belligerent powers, dual ly by them, authorized to cruize against their enemies, and tomake prize of their ships and goods, may in time of war arrest and seize the vessels belonging to the subjects or citizens of neutral. nations, and bring them into the ports of the fovereign under whose commission and authority they act, there to answer for any breaches of the laws of nations, concerning the navigation; of neutral vestels in time of war; and the said vessels of war, their commanders, officers, and crews, are no, amenable before. the tribunals of neutral powers, for their conduct therein, but are only answerable to the sovereign in whose immediate fervice they were, and from whom they derived their authority: And whereas, on and before the twentieth day of May, now last past, the said Samuel B. Davis, was, and now is, a lieutenant of ships in the navy of the said French Republic, and commander of a certain corvette or veffel of war, called the Cassius, then, and now, the property of the said Republic, and in her immediate service, and on the said twentieth day of May, was duly commissioned by, and under the authority of the said, Republic, to cruize against her enemies, and make prize of their ships and goods, (as by his commission, and the certificate of the Minister Plenipotentiary of the said Republic, to the United States, to the court now here, shewn, fully appears) Nevertheless, a certain James Yard, of the City of Philadelphia, merchant, not ignorant of the premises, but contriving

¥795

1795. and intending to diffurb the peace and harmony subsisting between the United States and the French Republic, and him the faid Samuel B. Davis, wrongfully to aggrieve and oppress and draw to another proof, him the faid Samuel B. Davis, and the faid corvette or veffel of war of the French Republic, the Caffius, in the port of Philadelphia, under the protection of the laws of nations and of the faith of treaties, has, by process out of the District Court of the United States, in and for the District of Pennsylvania, attached and arrested him, the said Samuel B. Davis, and the faid corvette or vessel of war, the Casfius, and before the Judge of the said District Court, contrary to the faid law of nations and treaties, and against the form of the laws of the United States, hath unjustly drawn in plea, to answer to a certain libel, by him, the faid James Yard, against him the faid Samuel B. Davis, and the faid corvette or vessel of war, the Cassius, her tackle, apparel and furniture, exhibited and promoted, craftily and fubtilly there alledging, articulating and objecting, that on the faid twentienth day of May, now last past; the said Samuel B. Davis, then commanding the said corvette or veffel, the Cassius, did forcibly, violently and tortiously take on the high seas, a certain schooner or vessel, belonging to the said James Yard, called the William Lindsey, and brought .. her into Port de Paix, (in the dominions of the French Republic) where the still remains, and also alledging and articulating, that the faid corvette or vessel, called the Cassius, was originally equipped and fitted for war, in the port of Philadelphia, in the United States, and that the faid Samuel B. Davis, was, at the time of the said capture, and now is, a citizen of the United States, without this, however, and the faid James Yard, not in any manner alledging or articulating, that the faid capture was made within the territory, rivers or bays of the United States, or within a marine league of the coast thereof, or that the said corvette or vessel, the Cassius, was so fitted or equipped for war, in the United States, by the faid French Republic, her agent or agents, with their knowledge, or by their means or procurement, or by the faid Samuel B. Davis, or that at the time of her being so equipped, or fitted for war in the United States, (if ever there, she was so, in any manner fitted or equipped) the was the property of the faid French Republic, or that the faid Samuel B. Davis was, in any manner, in the faid equipment or fitting for war, concerned; and without this also, and the said James Yard, not in any manner alledging, that the faid Samuel B. Davis was retained, or engaged in the service of the French Republic, within the territory or jurisdiction of the United States-And the said James Yard, him, the faid Samuel B. Davis, and the faid corvette or vessel of war, called the Cassius, by force of the process asoresaid, out of the faid District Court, had and obtained, as aforefaid, still 1795. wrongfully detains, and the faid Samuel B. Davis, and the French Republic, owner of the faid corvette or vessel of war, thereupon, in the faid District Court to answer, and in the premises cause to be condemned, with all his power endeavours, and daily contrives, in contempt of the government of the United States, against the laws of nations, the treaties subfisting between the United States and the French Republic, and against the laws and customs of the United States, to the manifest violation of the faid laws of nations, and treaties, and to the manifest disturbance of the peace and harmony, happily subfishing between the United States and the said French Republic—and this he is ready to verify. Wherefore, the faid Samuel B. Davis, the aid of this honorable court, most respectfully requesting, prays remedy, by a writ of prohibition, to be iffued out of this honorable court, to the faid Judge of the District Court of the United States, in and for the District of Pennsylvania, to be directed to prohibit him from holding the plea aforefaid, the premises aforefaid any wife concerning, farther before him.

Morgan.

Samuel B. Davis, being duly fworn, on his oath, doth fay, that all and fingular, the facts, by him in this suggestion stated, are true.

S. B. DAVIS.

Sworn in open Court, August 22d. 1795.

I. WAGNER. D. C. Sup, Ct. U. S."

The motion for the prohibition was supported by Ingerfold Du Ponceau and Dallas, and opposed by Tilghman and Lewis: And the controversy, turned principally, upon this point—Whether the District Court could sustain a libel for damages, in the case of a capture, as prize, made by a belligerent power, on the high seas, when the vessel captured was not brought within the jurisdiction of the United States, but carried, for adjudication infra prassidia of the captors?

Dallas, in opening the argument for the prohibition, contended, 1st. That a prohibition will lie in this case;—2d. That on the face of the libel, it was evident, that the District Court had no jurisdiction;—3d. That on the facts disclosed in the suggestion, the District Court ought not to be allowed to take jurisdiction;—and 4th. That the allegations of the libel itself,

would not support the proceedings below.

I. A prohibition will lie in this case. The three great objects of the judicial power are an authority—Ist. to administer justice; 2d. to compel the unwilling, or negligent, magistrate, to perform his duty; and 3d. to restrain the ministers of justice within

1795.

within the regular boundaries of their respective jurisdictions. The judicial power is, therefore, either abstract or relative; in the former character, the court, for itself, declares the law and distributes justice; in the latter, it superintends and controuls the conduct of other tribunals, by a prohibitory, or mandatory, interposition. This superintending authority has been deposited in the Supreme Court, by the Federal Constitution; and it becomes a duty to exercise it upon every proper occasion. The writ of prohibition is faid, indeed, by the English books, to be grantable ex debito justiciæ. I Sir T. Raym. 3. 4. and, it is certain, that the Constitution and laws of the Union fix no limitation to the exercise of the power of this court upon the subject, but, by way of implication, that it shall be warranted by the principles and usages of law. Judicial Act. f. 13. The principles and usages of law, warrant, that a prohibition shall iffue—If where the cause does not originally belong to the inferior Court; and 2d. where the collateral matter arising from the cause is not within the jurisdiction of the inferior Court. Nor does the writ iffue merely to forbid proceeding in fuch cases as belong to the common law courts; for, it equally issues to forbid proceeding in cases that do not belong to the inferior Court, though the courts at common law can give no remedy. Woods. Inft. 570. F. N. B. 106. T. I Wood. 142. There is, however, some diversity, whether a prohibition will issue to an Admiralty Court, till sentence; but this clearly arises on cases originally within the jurisdiction of the court; for, in Admiralty, as well as in ecclefiaftical courts, if it appears on the face of the proceedings, that there is no jurifdiction, the court will not permit an attempt to exercise one. Burr. 1922.

II. On the face of the libel, it is evident, that the District Court has no jurisdiction. The promonent facts are, that the vessel was taken as prize, carried infra præsidia of the captor, and, at this time, actually remains there. There is no trefpass stated distinct from the capture as prize; and this is not a question of restitution, since the vessel is not within our ju-. risdiction. Besides, from the very nature of things, the question of damages must be determined by the same tribunal, that determines the question of prize: it is an incident, and whoever takes cognizance of the principal question, must likewise take cognizance of that. In the French Court of Admiralty, the captor and the captured, will fland on a fair and equal footing;—the one, to shew the grounds of condemnation, or, at least, of justifiable suspicion for searching and seizing a neutral vessel;-the other, to repel the allegation, to obtain restitution, and to recover damages. By the law of nations, the right of judging is vested in the courts of the captor; the prin-

SUPREME COURT of the United States.

ciples of justice enforce the rule in the present instance; all the witnesses and documents are with the prize. If, the the courts of the captor have a right to decide the question prize, and their decision is binding on all the world, can mages be obtained here, when condemnation has been, or i be, decreed there? In the Silesia case, the British Lawyers remonstrated against the appointment of a Prussian court of commissioners, to re-examine and re-judge the sentences of their admiralty. Collect. Jurid. Let the facts be as they may, the fentence of the French court must be conclusive. where an Englishman's vessel was taken by a French privateer, England and France being at peace, and condemed as Dutch property, the court would not examine into the fentence. Sir T. Raym. 473. 1 Dall. Rep. 78. The very statement in the libel, establishes the presumption that the vessel captured was carried into Port de Paix, for legal adjudication; and if justice requires, she will not only be restored, but damages will be there awarded. Where the cause of prohibition appears on the face of the libel, it need not be pleaded below. 2 Salk.

III. On the facts disclosed in the suggestion, the District Court ought not to be allowed to take jurisdiction. The Constitution of the United States might have rendered the individual states, may, the Union itself, amenable as defendants at the fuit of individuals; but it could not, in that way, bind other fovereign nations, not parties to the compact. Even, indeed, with respect to the States, the language of the propofed amendment, is, that " the judicial power of the United States shall not be construed to extend to any suit, &c." by individuals against a state; which furnishes, at least, a legislative opinion of the exemption of fovereigns from fuch process. But Vatt. b. c. f. the law of nations is express on the subject. p. and Pennsylvania has heretofore judicially recognized the doctrine. I Dail. Rep. The Cassius being then the property of a fovereign and independent nation, cannot be attached for any supposed delinquency of her commander, committed on the high feas: it would be making public property responfible for private wrongs. What would be the confequence of an acquiescence in the jurisdiction now set up? Every privateer, every national vessel of war, would be liable to feizure at the instance of every individual, who pretended he was injured. Could the American citizens, who have fuffered by spoliation, seize the British frigates, or privateers, upon their entrance into our port? Could Captain Blis, whose pilot boat was seized, and rifled of the public papers of the French Minister, within the waters of the United States, attack the Africa, or arrest Captain Holme, who had perpetrated

1795.

the outrage? The abuse of a public trust is cause of complaint to the Government of the offending party; but to retaliate by seizure, without first demanding redress, is contrary to the general rights and laws of nations, as well as contrary to the existing treaty between the *United States* and *France*.

The allegations of the libel itself cannot support. the proceeding. Iff It is alledged, that the captured veffel was neutral property: but this is a fact to be proved in the French Admiralty; for, the neutral vessel might be carrying contraband articles to an enemy of the captor;— she might be failing to a blockaded port;—she might have defective papers;—or she might act in a suspicious and ambiguous manner. In any of these cases the right of search, and carrying into port for further examination, may be exercised by a belligerent power:—they are Subjects for the confideration of the court of the captor, but they give no jurisdiction here.—2nd It is alledged that the Captain of the Corvette was in fact an American Citizen: but, it is anfwered, that there is no proof of the allegation; and even, if proved, a Citizen of the United States may expatriate himself; and, afterwards, in a foreign country, enter into a foreign fervice. It is true, that some of our treaties abandon him to be punished as a traitor; and that the fact might be examined here, with a view to punish him personally, for any infraction of our laws; but it is not a matter that can give jurisdiction to our Courts, on the question of prize, or no prize.—3d. It is alledged that the Cassius was illegally outfitted in the United States: but it is answered, that there is no allegation, either that she was illegally outfitted by the Captain, or after the had become the property of the French Republic. An illegal outfit is a politive offence, highly penal;—every man will be prefumed innocent of it, till the contrary is proved. In ordinary cases, where there is a sale in market overt, no man is entitled to restitution till conviction; nor can there sooner be a forfeiture of an illegally outfitted vessel. But, it is conclusive, that the libel filed in this case, is not for the forseiture, under the act of Congress, of June 1794; but for damages, in consequence of the capture as prize, which can only be given by the court having cognizance of that question. Any other interpretation of the law would be attended with intolerable inconveniences. Every owner, freighter, master, seaman, of a vessel taken as prize, might sue the Captor in every Court of every Country. No precedent of fuch a proceeding exists; and the universal filence on this subject, amounts to a denial of its legality.

The adverse Counsel stopped Dallas, and mentioned, that they had just received, but had not had time to examine, some French papers from Port de Paix, which, they believed, would shew, that the Court of Admiralty there, had actually

129

taken cognizance of, and decided upon, the case; and, they said, that is such that if such was the fact, they would voluntarily withdraw, the Libel. An adjournment till the evening took place, in order to afford an opportunity for examining the papers referred to; but the translations not being complete, at the meeting of the Court, and the Judges declaring their intention to break up, fine die, the next morning, a defultory argument ensued, in the course of which the motion for the Prohibition was opposed on three grounds—Ist. That the District Court had jurisdiction—2d. That even if that point were doubtful, the Prohibition ought not to issue till after sentence—and, 3dly. That on a plea to the jurisdiction, the party injured by the sentence, might have an adequate remedy on appeal. In support of these positions, were cited, I Sid. 320. Thos. Raym. Vent. 173. Carth. Hard. 406. Skin. 20. Holt.

The Judges intimated, that they would again adjourn, in order to give a further opportunity to confider the expediency of withdrawing the Libel; but no compromise having taken place, on the 24th of August, THE CHIEF JUSTICE, delivered

their opinion:

BY THE COURT:—We have confulted together on this motion; and, though a difference of fentiment exists, a majority of the Court are clearly of opinion, that the motion ought to be granted. Therefore,

Let a Prohibition issue.

The Prohibition iffued, accordingly, in the following form:

" UNITED STATES, /.

THE PRESIDENT of the UNITED STATES to the honorable RICHARD PETERS, Esquire, Judge of the District Court of the United States, in and for the Pennsylvania district: It is thewn to the Judges of the Supreme Court of the United States, by Samuel B. Davis, That whereas by the laws of nations, and the treaties subfishing between the United States and the Republic of France, the trial of prizes taken on the high feas, without the territorial limits and jurisdiction of the United States, and brought within the dominions and jurisdiction of the faid Republic, for legal adjudication, by veffels of war belonging to the fovereignty of the faid Republic, acting under the fame, and of all questions incidental thereto, does of right, and exclusively, belong to the tribunals and judiciary establishments of the faid Republic, and to no other tribunal, or tribunals, court, or courts, whatfoever: And whereas by the faid law of nations, and treaties aforefaid, the veffels of war belonging to the faid French Republic, and the officers commanding the same, cannot, and ought not, to be arrested, feized, Vol. III.



seized, attached, or detained, in the ports of the United States; I by process of law, at the suit or instance of individuals, to anfwer for any capture or captures, feizure or feizures, made on the high feas, and brought for legal adjudication into the ports of the French Republic, by the faid veffels of war, while belonging to, and acting under the authority and in the immediate fervice of the faid Republic: And whereas bythe laws and treaties aforefaid, the District Courts of the United States have not, and ought not, to entertain jurisdiction or hold plea of fuch captures, made as aforefaid, under the above circumstances: And whereas by the laws of nations, the vessels of war of belligerent powers, duly by them authorized, to cruize against their enemies, and to make prize of their ships and goods, may, in time of war, arrest and seize the vessels belonging to the subjects or citizens of neutral nations, and bring them into the ports of the fovereign under whose commission and authority they act, there to answer for any breaches of the laws of nations, concerning the navigation of neutral ships, in time of war; and the faid veffels of war, their commanders, officers and crews, are not amenable before the tribunals of neutral powers for their conduct therein, but are only answerable to the fovereign in whose immediate service they were, and from whom they derived their authority: And whereas, on or before the twentieth day of May, now last past, the faid Samuel B. Davis, was, and now is, a Lieutenant of thips in the navy of the faid French Republic, and commander of a corvette, or vessel of war, called the Cassius, then, and now, the property of the faid Republic, and in her immediate fervice; and on the faid twentieth day of May, was duly commissioned, by and under the authority of the said Republic, to cruize against her enemies, and make prize of their ships (as by his commission and the certificate of the minister plenipotentiary of the faid Republic to the United States, to the court shewn, more fully appears) Nevertheless a certain James Yard, of the city of Philadelphia, merchant, not ignorant of the premifes, but contriving and intending to disturb the peace and harmony subsisting between the United States and the French Republic, and him, the faid Samuel B. Davis, wrongfully to aggrieve and oppress, and draw to another proof, him, the faid Samuel B. Davis, and the faid corvette, or veffel of war, of the French Republic, the Caffius, in the port of Philadelphia, under the protection of the laws of nations, and of the faith of treaties, has, by process out of the District Court of the United States, in and for the District of Pennsylvania, attached and arrested him, the said Samuel B. Davis, and the said corvette, or vessel of war, the Cassius, before the Judge of the said District Court, contrary to the faid law of nations, and treaties, and against

against the due form of the laws of the United States, hath un- 1795. justly drawn in plea, to answer to a certain libel, by him, the faid Fames Yard, against him, the said Samuel B. Davis, and against the said corvette, or vessel of war, the Cassius, her tackle, apparel, and furniture, exhibited and promoted, craftily and fubtilly therein alledging, articulating, and objecting, that on the faid twentieth day of May, now last past, the said Samuel B. Davis, then commander of the faid corvette, or vessel, the Cassius, did, forcibly, violently, and tortiously, take on the high seas, a certain schooner, or vessel, belonging to the said James Yard, called the William Lindsey, and brought her into Port de Paix, (in the dominion of the French Republic) where she still remains; and also alledging and articulating, that the faid corvette, or veffel called the Cassius, was originally equipped and fitted for war, in the port of Philadelphia, in the United States, and that the faid Samuel B. Davis, was at the time of the faid capture, and now is, a citizen of the United States: Without this, however, and the faid James Yard, not in any manner alledging, or articulating, that the faid capture was made, within the territory, rivers, or bays, of the United States, or within a marine league of the coast thereof, or that the said corvette or vessel, the Cassius, was so sitted or equipped for war in the United States, by the faid French Republic, her agent, or agents, with their knowledge, or by the means, or procurement, or by the faid Samuel B. Davis, or that at the time of her being so equipped, or fitted for war, in the United States, (if ever there she was so in any manner fitted or equipped) she was the property of the faid French Republic, or that the faid Samuel B. Davis was in any manner, in the faid equipment, or fitting for war, concerned; and without this, also, and the faid James Yard, not in any manner alledging, that the faid Samuel B. Davis was retained, or engaged, in the service of the French Republic, within the territory or jurisdiction of the United States: And that the faid James Yard, him, the faid Samuel B. Davis, and the faid corvette, or vessel of war, called the Callius, by force of the process aforesaid, out of the said District Court, had and obtained, as aforesaid, still wrongfully detains, and the faid Samuel B. Davis, and the French Republic, owner of the faid corvette, or vessel of war, thereupon in the faid District Court to answer, and in the premises, cause to be condemned, with all his power, endeavours, and daily contrives, in contempt of the government of the United States, against the laws of nations, and the treaties subfissing between the United States and the French Republic, and against the laws and customs of the United States, to the manifest violation of the law of nations, and treaties, and to the manifest disturbance of the peace and harmony happily sublisting between the United

1795.

United States and the French Republic: Wherefore the said Samuel B. Davis, the aid of the said Supreme Court most respectfully requesting, hath prayed remedy by a writ of prohibition, to be issued out of the said Supreme Court, to you to be directed, do prohibit you from holding the plea aforesaid, the premises aforesaid any wise concerning, further before you:—You, therefore, are hereby prohibited, that you no further hold the plea aforesaid, the premises aforesaid in any wise touching, before you, nor any thing in the said District Court attempt, nor procure to be done, which may be in any wise to the prejudice of the said Samuel B. Davis, or the said corvette, or vessel of war, called the Cassius; or in contempt of the laws of the United States: And also, that from all proceedings thereon you do, without delay, release the said Samuel B. Davis, and the said corvette, or vessel of war, called the Cassius, at your peril.

WITNESS, the honorable JOHN RUTLEDGE, Efquire, Chief Justice of the said Supreme Court, at *Philadelphia*, this 24th day of August, in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and ninety-five, and of the independence of the *United States*, the twentieth.

I. WAGNER, D. C. Sup. Ct. U. S.*

* The proceedings on the libel for damages in the District Court, were accordingly superseded; but an information, Ketland, qui tam, &c. was immediately afterwards filed in the Circuit Court, against the Corvette for the illegal out-fit in violation of the act of Congress, and the vessel being thereupon attached, an application was made to Judge Peters, to discharge her on giving security, but the Judge was of opinion, that he had no power as District Judge, to make such an order in a cause depending in the Circuit Court. The French Minister, then deeming (as I have been informed) this prosecution to be a violation of the rights and property of the Republic, delivered a remonstrance to our government; and, converting the judicial enquiry into a matter of state, abandoned the Corvette, and discharged the officers and crew. See 2 vol. p. 365. Ketland qui tam versus the Cassus.